

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 29, 2004. Claims 1-5, 7-17 and 19-25 are pending in this application. Claims 6 and 18 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into Claims 1 and 13, respectively (those of Claim 18 have also been incorporated into Claim 25). In addition, various original recitations have been deleted from the respective independent claims. Also, Claims 7-11 and 19-24 have been amended as to matters of form. All these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

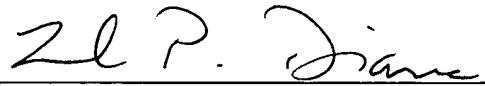
Applicant notes with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that Claims 6-12 and 18-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and with no change in scope. While the independent claims are broader in some respects than were original Claims 6 and 18, those respects are not believed to affect the allowability of present Claims 1, 13 and 25.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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